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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 NEA-09 IO-10 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9440
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 0098

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SG, PFOR, PGOV
SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECHES.

SUMMARY: ON NEW YEAR'S DAY PRESIDENT SENGHOR ADDRESSED NATION AND RECEIVED NEW YEAR'S WISHES FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS. ON JANUARY 2 HE EXCHANGED GREETINGS WITH DIPLOMATIC GORPS. ON THESE OCCASIONS HE REITERATED POLICY DIRECTIONS HE HAS LAID OUT FOR SENEGAL AND COMMENTED ON VARIOUS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING TO NATION, SENGHOR SAID NO ONE ASTONISHED THAT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS HAD REACHED SENEGAL. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ON COUNTRY'S FUTURE. HE TOLD SENEGALESE
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THAT SENEGAL COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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WITH RESPECT TO ITS PRICES AND WAGES. AT SAME
TIME, HE EXHORTED THEM WORK HARDER. HE SAID GOVERNMENT
HOPES DOUBLE AMOUNT OF WAGE EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING UNITS
CONSTRUCTED OVER NEXT TEN YEARS TO MEET PEOPLE'S NEEDS.
HE ALSO SPOKE OF NECESSITY FOR GREATER INDUSTRIALIZATION.
WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, HE SAID HE WAS
ENCOURAGED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND
GISCARD D'ESTAING ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE.
HE SAID INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, HE WOULD TRY TO ASSIST
JEWISH-ARAB DIALOGUE. FINALLY, HE RENDERED HOMAGE TO
PRESIDENT KUANDA, OTHER AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, AND
NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHO WERE HELPING A "NEW SUN
RISE OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA." IN THAT SPIRIT, THE "SENEGALESE
GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH PATIENCE FOR OUR SENEGAL,
FOR AFRICA, FOR THE THIRD WORLD, AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY."

2. RESPONDING TO NEW YEAR'S WISHES OF PRIME MINISTER,
SENGHOR AGAIN EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON SENEGAL'S ECONOMIC
FUTURE AND PRAISED DIOUF FOR HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES.
MOST OF EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, HEAD
OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ETC., WERE EXERCISES IN MUTUAL
FLATTER. HOWEVER, MORE INTERESTING AND SUBSTANTIVE
REMARKS CONCERNED ARMED FORCES. IN RESPONDING TO ARMED
FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL IDRISSA FALL, PRESIDENT
PRAISED ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN DEFENDING FRONTIERS AND
IN AIDING SENEGAL'S DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT
HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO INSURE GREATER JUSTICE IN
PROMOTION SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT AN INCREASE OF MORAL AND
MATERIAL RESOURCES WOULD BE PUT AT DISPOSITION OF ARMED
FORCES. HE ALSO REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO GOVERNMENT PLANS
TO INCREASE NUMBER OF PATROL BOATS GUARDING SENEGAL'S
COASTLINE AND TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. SPEAKING TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SENGHOR NOTED ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL CRISES SHAKING THE WORLD, EXPECIALLY "LAST
COMBATS" OF COLONIALISM, BUT NOTED ALSO, POSSIBLY WITH
UPPER VOLTA AND MALI PARTICULARLY IN MIND, COLONIALISTS
ARE NOT ONLY GUILTY ONES WHEN WE SEE MICRONATIONALISMS
OF THIRD WORLD CONFRONTING EACH OTHER OVER FRONTIERS.
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PRESIDENT EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM
WHICH APPEARS "SOLVABLE BECAUSE PLO WILLING TAKE ITS
PLACE AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." SENGAL FAVORS
DIALOGUE, HE CONTINUED, NOT ONLY NORTH-SOUTH BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT EAST-WEST
BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD. CULTURAL CONFLICT
LIES BEHIND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONFLICT, WHICH
EXPLAINS WHY SENEGAL HAS STRESSED TEACHING OF LANGUAGES

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AND CIVILIZATIONS IN ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

COMMENT: PREVIOUS REPORTING BY DATT CONFIRMS THAT SENEGALESE HAVE THREE SMALL PATROL BOATS ON ORDER FROM CANADIANS. ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS, THEY ARE ALSO ORDERING A LARGER CLASS PATROL BOAT NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN FRANCE. PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO NAVY'S NEEDS IS INDICATIVE OF IMPORTANCE SENEGAL ATTACHES TO CONTROLLING FISHERIES LOCATED WITHIN OCEAN AREA IT CLAIMS AS ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS.
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